

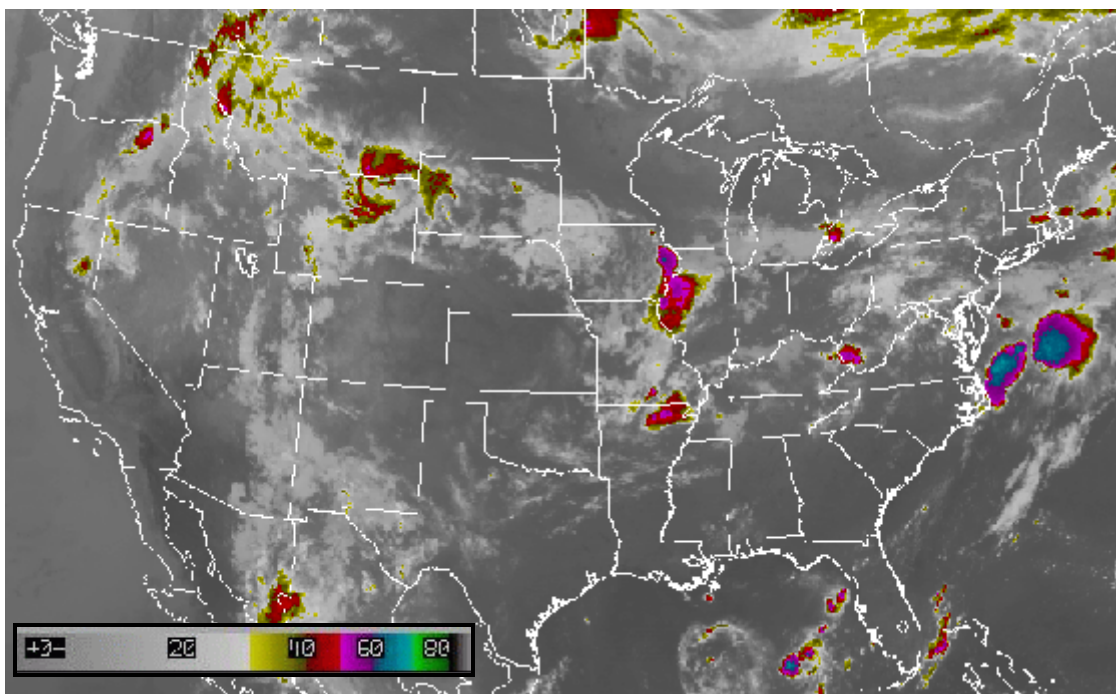
Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - July 19, 2002

- ▼ ***In the West***, isolated showers are locally reducing irrigation demands, but providing little relief from long-term drought. However, very warm, dry weather persists across interior portions of the ***West Coast States***, favoring irrigated summer crops, but increasing stress on dryland agricultural interests.
- ▼ ***On the Plains***, hot, dry weather continues to severely stress pastures and dryland summer crops, including sorghum, across ***central portions of the region***. Meanwhile on the ***northern Plains***, scattered showers are easing the effects of recent heat and dryness on spring-sown small grains.
- ▼ ***In the Corn Belt***, hot, dry conditions persist in ***westernmost portions of the region***, including ***Nebraska***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 90 to 100 degrees F. Meanwhile, near-normal temperatures and scattered showers are aiding reproductive corn and soybeans across the ***southern and eastern Corn Belt***, following a month-long dry spell.
- ▼ ***In the South***, hot weather is spreading across areas from the ***Delta westward***, promoting rapid summer crop development in the wake of recent, beneficial showers. Meanwhile, slightly cooler weather and scattered showers are overspreading the ***interior South and the southern Mid-Atlantic region***, but hot, dry conditions are stressing pastures and rain-fed summer crops in the ***eastern Gulf Coast and southern Atlantic States***.

Outlook: Scattered showers are possible across the ***Corn Belt, Mid Atlantic and New England States***, while heat builds in the ***upper Midwest***. Farther ***west***, mostly dry weather is expected in the ***Pacific Northwest*** as well as the ***Southwest and Great Basin***, although showers are likely in the ***Rockies and northern Plains*** to start the weekend. Unsettled weather will persist in the ***Delta and Southeast***. By next week, a cold front will bring showers and cooler temperatures to the ***Rockies*** and ***central Great Plains***, while heat increases in the ***West***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for July 24-28 calls for warmer-than-normal temperatures in the ***western States*** and cooler-than-normal temperatures in the ***upper Mississippi Valley and Corn Belt***. Above-normal rainfall is forecast from the ***Mississippi Valley eastward***, while below-normal rainfall is expected in the ***West***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)



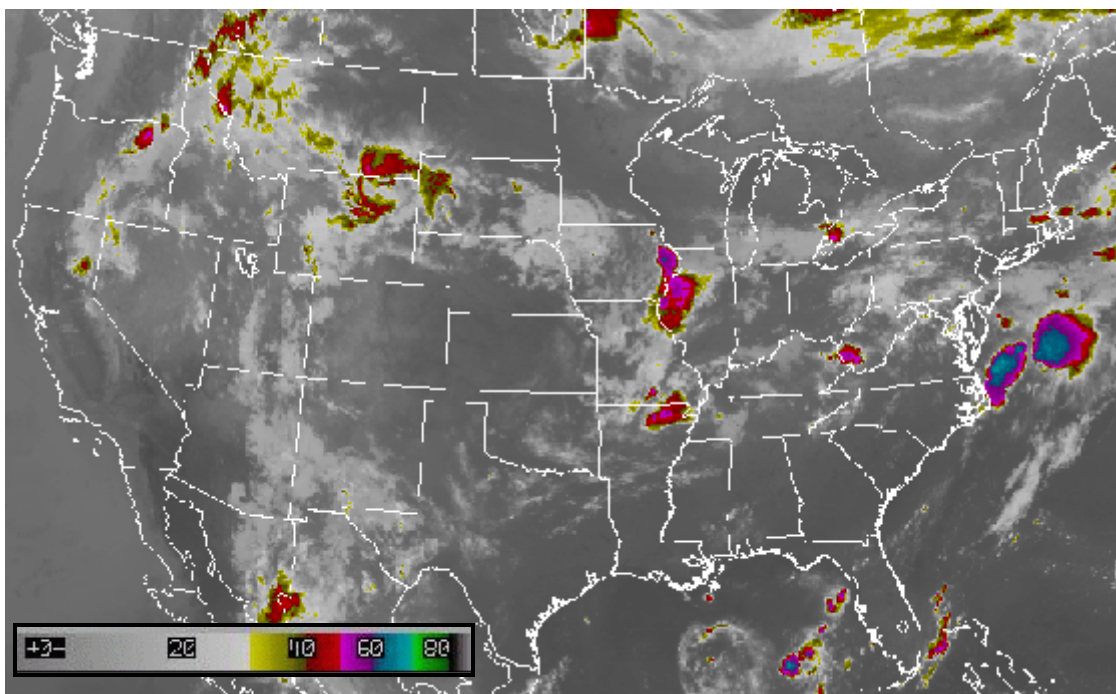
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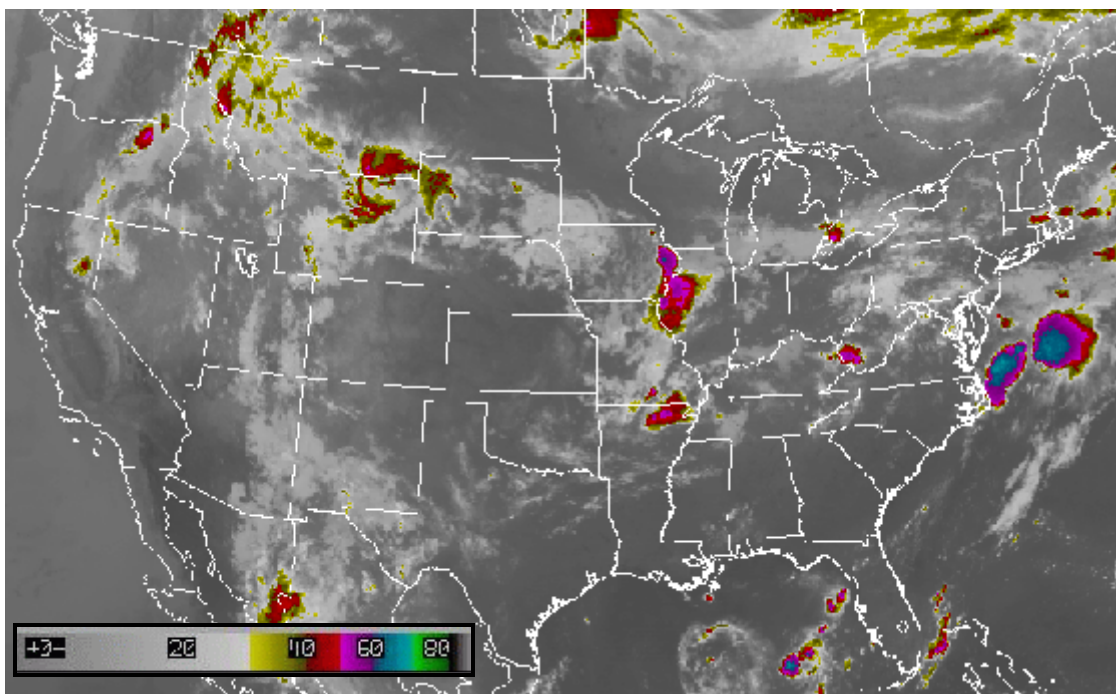
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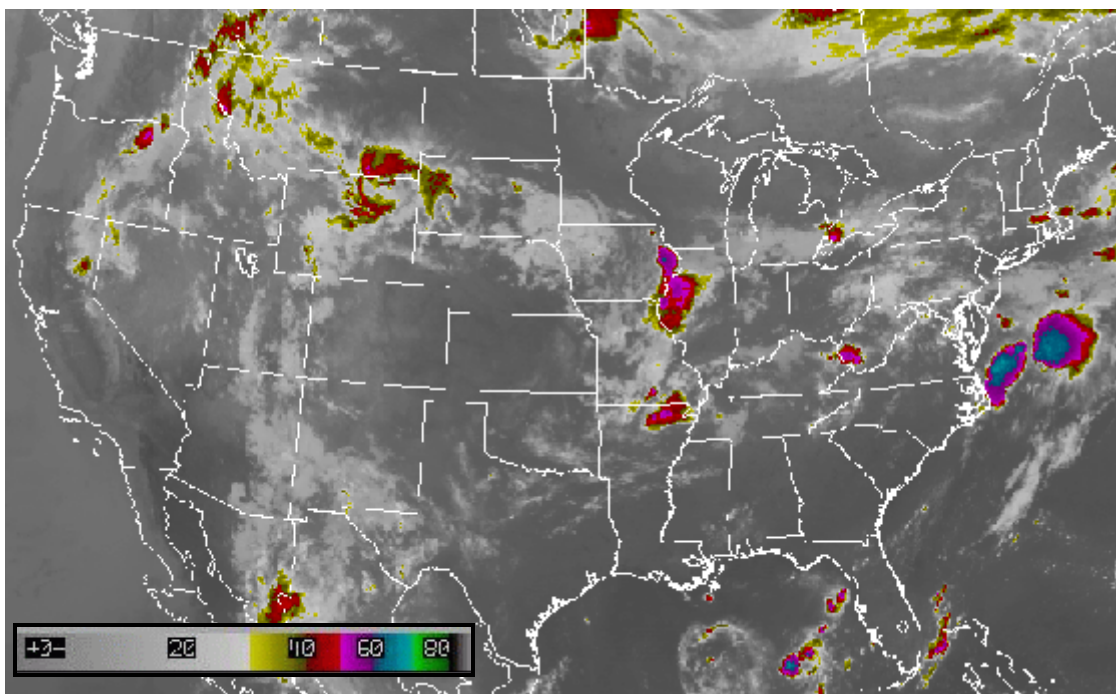
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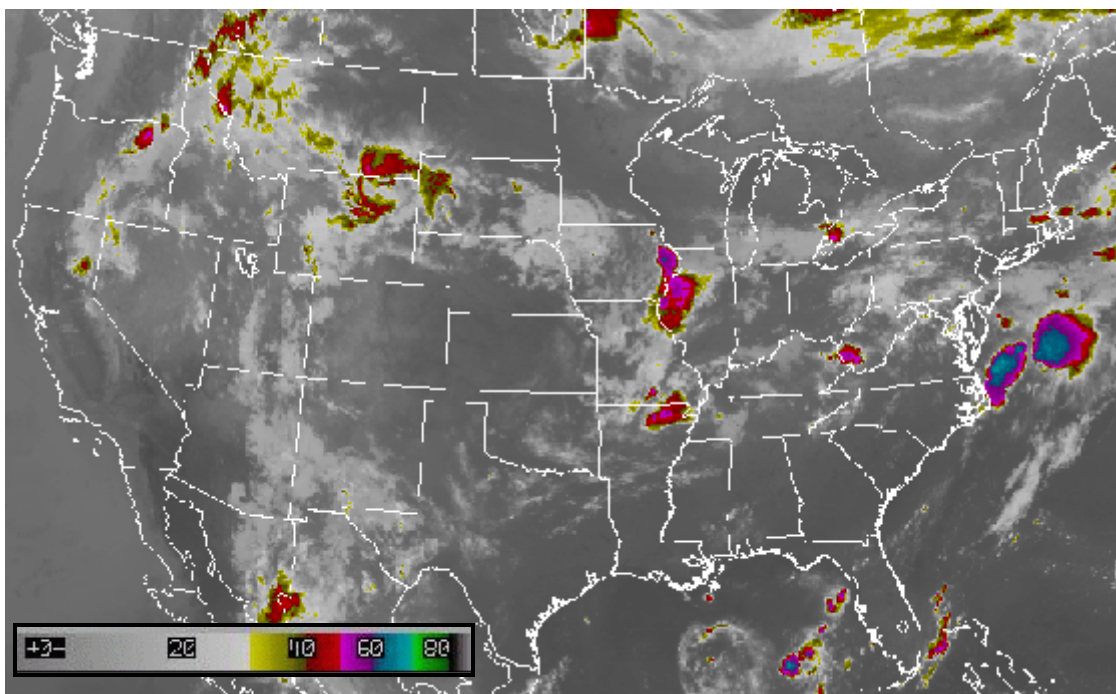
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